

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

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TAGS: PARM, MBFR, UR, SOPN
SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS COMMENTS ON MBFR: POSITIVE BUT
UNYIELDING ON DATA

1. PRAVDA OF AUGUST 15 CARRIES AN ARTICLE ON MBFR BY
I. MELNIKOV IN THE SERIES "DISARMAMENT--THE BEHEST
OF THE TIMES." MELNIKOV REVIEWS IN SOME DETAIL THE
POSITIONS OF THE TWO SIDES FOLLOWING THE WESTERN
PROPOSALS OF APRIL AND THE EASTERN JUNE PROPOSALS
AND:

-- ACCUSES THE WEST OF PLAYING A "POLITICAL GAME"
INTENDED TO "CHANGE THE EXISTING BALANCE OF FORCES
IN CENTRAL EUROPE;"

-- STATES THAT THE WEST "UNSUBSTANTIATEDLY" CLAIMS
THAT THE WARSAW PACT HAS NUMERICAL SUPERIORITY IN
GROUND FORCES;"

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-- CLAIMS THAT DURING THE FIRST FOUR YEARS OF MBFR
TALKS ONLY TWO QUESTIONS WERE SETTLED WHILE IN THE
LAST ROUND AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON TEN QUESTIONS OF
MAJOR IMPORTANCE;

-- WARNS, NEVERTHELESS, THAT THE TALKS HAVE NOT

FOUND "AN AUTOMATIC WAY OUT OF THE DEADLOCK" BECAUSE
NATO IS SEEKING TO BUILD UP ITS ARMAMENTS;

-- ASSURES THE WEST THAT THE EAST IS READY "ON THE
BASIS OF ITS PROPOSALS TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE" TO
BRING ABOUT A BREAKTHROUGH IN THE TALKS AND FIND
AGREEMENT; AND

-- CONCLUDES BY CITING BREZHNEV AT MINSK TO THE
EFFECT THAT ALL NOW DEPENDS ON THE POLITICAL WILL OF
THE WEST.

2. IN AN ARTICLE ON MBFR IN THE AUGUST 11 EDITION
OF NOVOYE VREMYA V. KOMLEV ADDRESSES THE DATA QUESTION.
KOMLEV ACCUSES THE WEST OF BAD FAITH IN ARTIFICIALLY
CREATING NUMERICAL DISPARITIES BETWEEN WARSAW PACT
AND NATO FORCES. KOMLEV CLAIMS THAT THE WEST HAS
NOT BEEN ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE THE VALIDITY OF ITS
DATA ON WARSAW PACT FORCES, WHICH HE CLAIMS RESULT
FROM A NUMBER OF FALSE PREMISES, INCLUDING THE IN-
CORRECT ASSUMPTION THAT PACT UNITS ARE AT FULL COM-
PLEMENTS WHEN IN REALITY DURING PEACETIME UNITS ARE
KEPT AT LEVELS BELOW FULL COMPLEMENT.

3. KOMLEV TAKES THIS ARGUMENT FURTHER BY ALSO
CLAIMING THAT NATO DATA ON ITS OWN FORCES IS "ARTI-
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FICIALLY LOWERED BY ALMOST ONE-THIRD." IN CONCLUSION,
AFTER DECRYING NATO "MANIPULATION" OF DATA AND "THE
ARBITRARY CHARACTER OF WESTERN METHODS OF COUNTING,"
KOMLEV WRITES THAT THE WEST HAS "NO BASIS" FOR ASSERT-
ING THAT A NUMERICAL BALANCE EXISTS BETWEEN NATO AND
WARSAW PACT FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE. TOON

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